

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01210 241310Z

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ACTION COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3522

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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 1210

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IZ

SUBJECT: GROUP TRAVEL: STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

REF: STATE 208090

1. ALTHOUGH WE SHARE MISGIVINGS EXPRESSED REFTEL, WE WILL ASSIST TO EXTENT POSSIBLE BAGHDAD VISIT OF GROUP OF SIX NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESSMEN NOVEMBER 7 THROUGH 14. ONLY HOLIDAY IS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12. EXTREMELY HEAVY WORK SCHEDULE DURING THIS PERIOD WILL LIMIT USINT SUPPORT TO: (A) BREIFING BY USINT OFFICER ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ: (B) ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS: AND (C) ONE EMPLOYEE TO ACCOMPANY GROUP ON VISITS AS NECESSARY.

2. WE BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD POTENTIAL MARKET FOR COMMERCIAL AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT, TOBACCO, POULTRY PROCESSING EQUIPMENT, FARM MACHINERY, TEXTILE-MILL EQUIPMENT, FERTILIZERS, MEASURING DEVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION AND SOIL TESTING, AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING. THERE IS ALMOST NO DEMAND FOR OTHER ITEMS.

3. IN VIEW OF LACK OF ADVANCE OFFICER WE ANTICIPATE LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES AND SUGGEST THAT NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESSMAN J.B. HUNT, FAMILIAR WITH IRAQI SCENE, PRECEDE GROUP BY FEW DAYS TO USE HIS LOCAL CONTACTS TO FACILITATE VISIT.

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4. TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS WITH MFA, WE WOULD PREFER NOT
RPT NOT DESCRIBE VISIT OF THIS GROUP AS A "TRADE MISSION."
AS YOU RECALL, PROCESSING A GROUP WHICH WE CHOOSE TO CALL
A "TRADE MISSION" THROUGH TO APPROVAL IS LABORIOUS AND
THE ISSUE IS ALWAYS IN DOUBT. WE ASSUME THAT THERE WILL
BE NO HIGH RANKING STATE OFFICIAL WHOSE PRESENCE WOULD
REQUIRE SPECIAL MFA ATTENTION. AS NON-TRADE-MISSION
GROUP WOULD MAKE NO RPT NO CALLS AS A GROUP, BUT EACH
MEMBER WOULD PROCEED TO HIS OWN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS.
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